

Section 21: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT STATE BOARD MEETINGS

Policy purpose: It is the purpose of this policy to ensure the public has every right to address the state board on issues related to its goals to help improve the quality of public schooling in Wyoming.

Policy statement:

The State Board of Education recognizes its obligation to help Wyoming citizens understand the operation of public schools. The board is also aware of the need for communication with citizens to permit the public to voice opinions and also to permit the board to explain general policies governing the operation of schools in the state. Therefore, in an effort to provide a procedure by which matters of statewide interest concerning schools may be brought before the board, while at the same time permitting the board to conduct its meetings in an orderly and efficient manner, the State Board of Education offers the following policy with regard to citizen participation in the meetings of the board:

Citizen participation will take place during that part of the regular meeting designated on the agenda as the “Public Comment Period,” though the Chair has the prerogative to call on individuals or agency representatives to comment during the course of the meeting. Procedures for the “Public Comment Period” are as follows:

- 1) No commercial solicitations will be allowed. If any speaker makes such an attempt, he or she will immediately be asked to refrain from making any further remarks of a commercial nature.
- 2) The chair may limit each individual’s comments to five (5) minutes, and the entire period to thirty (30) minutes.
- 3) There may be no response by board members to remarks made during the Public Comment Period. Board members may ask clarifying questions after remarks are complete. Board action, if any is warranted, shall be taken at a subsequent meeting.
- 4) These procedures may be temporarily waived by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the board members present at any meeting where such a waiver is justified by extenuating circumstances.
- 5) The chair has the authority to ask a presenter to conclude his or her remarks if he or she becomes out of order. Complaints filed with the board should relate only to matters over which the board has direct jurisdiction. It is not within the authority of the board to

exercise those functions which the Legislature has specifically conferred on county and local boards of trustees. Areas of local involvement, such as failure of a teacher to be re-employed by a local board of trustees, assignment of pupils, discipline of students, and similar matters related to local operations, should be pursued at the district level.

Statement of chair: The following statement will be read before any citizen speaks to the board during the Public Comment Period:

“We appreciate your interest in public education. You may be allotted {five (5)} minutes for your comments. Please give us your name and community; you are welcome to add an affiliation, if you have one. Since we are hearing your comments for the first time, it is our policy to accept your comments as information. This board does not usually take up matters that are duties of local boards of trustees. We can only receive comments on the expressed duties of the Wyoming State Board of Education. We cannot discuss personnel or legal matters. If we have questions or need additional information, we will ask now and/or contact you at a later date. Thank you for sharing your views with the state board; we genuinely appreciate your taking time to engage in public schooling in Wyoming.”

Last revised: November 18, 2010

Section 29: BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Issues related to communications are intrinsically interwoven into the ethics statutes and executive orders. The Ethics Act is at [W.S. 9-13-101 through -109](#), and the two executive orders are Executive Order [1997-4](#) and [1981-12](#). Linked are the Attorney General's office lobbying memos as well - the lobbying statutes are at [W.S. 28-7-101 through -201](#).

Policy purpose: The purpose of this policy is to identify the various channels of communication within the State Board of Education, their intended purposes, and the roles and responsibilities of board members in accessing and using them. It also attempts to inform board members about the channels and best practices for interacting with the educational community and broader public throughout Wyoming.

Policy statement:

The State Board of Education has the objective of enhancing and streamlining internal communications to reinforce the board's vision and strategic priorities. This involves ensuring that information is equitably disseminated to board members and is relevant, easy to access, accurate, and appropriate in both content and quality.

Each member of the state board has a digital device allowing them to access and collaborate about key documents and information, primarily in email and on the shared Board Docs platform. The board will continue to develop and expand new communication platforms, channels, and tools to improve information sharing and collaboration among state board members.

This policy is to be implemented in a way that ensures compliance with relevant legislative requirements and standards of best practice.

Board members are encouraged to share information with their peers and the broader education community about activities and events that have an association with the Wyoming State Board of Education.

In some cases, the board chair or delegate will speak, write, and communicate virtually for the board on issues that have come before the board. Every effort will be made to make such communications known to the entire board as time allows. Every effort will be made to date and time-stamp communications emanating from the board.

It is the individual responsibility of each board member to refer communication issues to the board chair. The chair of the state board speaks for the board, but may ask other board members or board staff to represent the consensus views of the board.

Last revised: